

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01 IO-13 AGR-05

INT-05 OES-06 FEA-01 /115 W  
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R 010828Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1845

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

FBIS OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON PINT CH

SUBJECT: NEW PRC AWARENESS OF ECONOMIC TARGETS

REF: PEKING 1696 AND PEKING 1702

1. WE HAVE NOTICED AN UPSURGE IN MEDIA ATTENTION TO PRODUCTION TARGETS AND RESTROGING PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY IN THE WAKE OF THE AUGUST 23 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL AND "RECENT CENETER INSTRUCTIONS". AN ARTICLE ON DEEPENING CRITICISM OF TENG AND BOLSTERING THE ECONOMY APPEARED IN THE HONG KONG PRC NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 30. AND REPORTEDLY APPEARED THE SAME DAY IN PEOPLE'S DAILY. ITS MAIN THEME IS THAT ONLY FOUR MONTHS REMAIN IN ORDER TO FULFILL OR OVERFULFILL THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN FOR 1976. SIMILAR LANGUAGE HAS APPEARED IN A NUMBER OF PROVINCIAL BORADCASTS. ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMIC THEME IS NOT THAT UNUSUAL-CONCERN FOR MEETING ECONOMIC TARGETS OFTEN EMERGES TOWARD THE END OF MOST YEARS-THE QUICK  
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AND PARALLEL PROVINCIAL REACTION RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT

GUIDELINES EMPHASIZING ECONOMIC TARGETS MAY HAVE BEEN ISSUED.

2. THE MESSAGE AS IT HAS APPEARED IN THE MEDIA IS CLOSELY TIED TO EARTHQUAKE RELIEF WORK. ALTHOUGH PROVINCIAL MEDIA SEIZED ON THE EARTHQUAKE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY TO ENCOURAGE GREATER PRODUCTION, AND THIS HAS CONTINUED UNABATED, THE EMPHASIS NOW SEEMS EVEN CLEARER AND MORE COORDINATED. EXHORTATIONS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND PRACTICE ECONOMY IN CONSUMPTION OF RAW MATERIALS COVER THE FULL RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL SECTORS. COAL, IRON AND STEEL AND ELECTRICITY ARE FEATURED PROMINENTLY. AS IS TRANSPORTED.

3. PARALLELING CONCERN OVER ECONOMIC PRODUCTION, MOST OF CHINA'S PROVINCES HAVE BEEN GIVING UNUSUAL PROMINENCE TO FACTIONAL PROBLEMS AND THE "SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES OF CLASS ENEMIES". KIANGSI HAS EVEN SAID THAT IN SERIOUS CASES OF STIRRING UP SOCIAL DISORDER AND SPREADING RUMORS THE OFFENDERS SHOULD BE PUNISHED ACCORDING TO "MILITARY LAW". MORE RECENTLY, MASS RALLIES IN YUNNAN AND KWEICHOW PROVINCES AND PROVINCIAL BROADCASTS UNDERSCORED THE NEED TO DEAL WITH ECONOMIC AND FACTIONAL PROBLEMS IN RESPONSE TO THE "PARTY CENTER'S RECENT INSTRUCTIONS."

4. COMMENTS: HEIGHTENED CONCERN FOR PRODUCTION IS CERTAINLY NOT UNEXPECTED IN VIEW OF THE EARTHQUAKE LOSSES, BUT IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPEARANCE OF SIGN POINTING TOWARD MOVES TO DAMPEN AND CONTROL THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TENG (HK9925). THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO CAPITALIZE ON THE EARTHQUAKE'S ECONOMIC IMPACT TO BLUNT THE THRUST OF THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, AND IF GUIDELINES CALLING FOR STEPPED UP POST-QUAKE PRODUCTION HAVE NOW BEEN ISSUED, IT WOULD CERTAINLY STRENGTHEN THIS EFFORT.  
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